



STATE OF WASHINGTON

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Brewster
Study Session 1
Minutes
September 19, 2003

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Leo Gaeta, Diana Avalos, Gabriel Banfi, Homero Tamez, Yvonne Lopez-Morton and Uriel Iñiguez.

Commissioners absent: Edward Davila unexcused, Gabriel Portugal excused, Faviola Barbosa excused, and Karla Padilla-Reyna excused.

Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria.

Administrative Issues

Executive Assistant Echeverria reviewed the new travel request forms and the procedures for submitting a travel voucher.

Director Ginatta discussed the memorandum about community reports. This memorandum shows the numbers of calls or contacts to the Commission asking for assistance on several matters. He mentioned that any of the original reports are available for the commissioners to review.

Director Ginatta distributed handouts on several recent issues affecting the community:

- A notary public in Wenatchee who was permanently stopped from giving immigration advice.
- An undocumented Latino teenager signed up for the Armed Forces with false documentation, fought in Iraq, and was discovered as undocumented when he returned to the US. He now faces deportation.
- The Treasury Department approving the acceptance of the Matricula Consular. Commissioner Avalos asked if there was information regarding the Matricula that she could review. Executive Assistant Echeverria will send a copy of the packet available have at the CHA office.

- Yakima – The Aganda family, a Filipino family, faces deportation because they are undocumented. They are long time members of the community and have a dry cleaning store in the Valley. The mother has brain cancer. Reps. Jim Clemens & Mary Skinner are trying to assist them.
- Information from SeaMar on the elimination of the Maternity Case Management Program . Chair Gaeta gave some background on the issue. Had a community meeting in Moses Lake last week regarding the First Steps program . The changes in the health care program are going to take effect on October 1st. In January the children that are currently receiving assistance will get charged a premium.
- A document from the Attorney General's office that details ethical responsibilities of commissioners during election seasons. Antonio discussed drawing a clear line between work as a commissioner and work as a private individual. Vice-Chair Lopez-Morton gave an example of an election-related meeting she attended where someone introduced her as a commissioner even though she was there as a private individual. She was able to correct the other person's mistake by making it clear that she was attending as a private individual.

Director Ginatta distributed handouts on CHA Performance Measures. The Commission is tracking three measures: how many meetings attended at which issues are identified, how many advice contacts were made, and the quality of that advice. Commissioners are responsible to submit a list of meetings where they participated to identify issues. They should submit that list before every public meeting. Director Ginatta will incorporate those lists into our performance measures.

Director Ginatta gave an update on the Commission audit. Entrance & exit meetings have been completed. The CHA has no serious findings, but a number of exit items. Director Ginatta will review the audit more completely when the final documents are prepared by the Auditor's Office. He reminded the commissioners about not being able to sponsor meetings, conferences, or events by providing money to other organizations.

Guest Speakers:

Brenda Reagan & Joy St. Germain, Department of Ecology: Spoke about the recruitment efforts at their department. The position they are currently recruiting for is Environmental Specialist. The commissioners suggested some ideas about how to better recruit more Hispanics. Ms. Reagan and Ms. St. Germain expressed interest in the potential of mentoring programs with schools. Commissioner Avalos suggested that they attend educational youth conferences.

Jose Rodriguez (Spanish Language Communications Manager) and Reuel “Monty” Paradis (Region V Administrator), Labor & Industries: Our last meeting in Brewster brought forward a large number of people with L&I issues, so L&I decided it would be a good idea to be at this meeting. Mr. Rodriguez testified at the House Commerce & Labor committee yesterday. He handed out to the CHA commissioners a report about L&I services and outreach. The director of L&I met with farmworkers in Mattawa. At that meeting L&I representatives reviewed some of the cases. The agents were able to solve some of the issues on-site. Mr. Rodriguez wants to talk to the community today to see if L&I can get clinics started in the region. L&I representatives currently participate with the mobile clinic with the Mexican consulate’s office. Seeking to expand it with SeaMar, all this information has been advertised in the media.

Commissioner Tamez asked if L&I worked together with La Clinica in Pasco to provide doctor trainings.

Mr. Paradis said that the medical officer in their office holds trainings for physician and medical practitioners. He wants to start a project that will bring in all the separate groups to discuss the issues between workers, the department, employers and the doctors. The focus of the group will be to get the injured worker back to work.

L&I will also need to make an outreach effort regarding the pesticide blood- testing that will likely take effect in January.

Other Administrative Issues

Director Ginatta discussed the purpose of public meetings and the need to avoid too many recognitions. Recognitions are not the main purpose of a meeting. Also, trophies and plaques are expensive, and our budget cannot afford those purchases. Director Ginatta will be submitting a document on meeting considerations to Chair Gaeta for review and distribution. Leo announced the new members of the Executive Committee of the Commission, Diana Avalos and Homero Tamez.

Vice-Chair Lopez-Morton discussed the work of the Personnel Committee. Executive Assistant Echeverria handed out a list of all the current commissioner applicants that CHA had on file. Vice-Chair Lopez-Morton announced the new commissioners that the governor had appointed: Uriel Iñiguez, Faviola Barbosa, and Karla Padilla-Reyna.

The high number of commissioner applications may have been because of the mass mailings and Director Ginatta’s radio interviews.

Michelle Danley said the governor expects to fill 600 vacancies on state boards and commissions by the end of his term.

Chair Gaeta announced that a Latino Health Conference would be held on September 24 & 25th. He also mentioned that Dolores Huerta of the UFW would be there on the last day of the event.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Brewster
Study Session 2
Minutes
September 20, 2003

Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Leo Gaeta, Diana Avalos, Gabriel Banfi, Homero Tamez, Yvonne Lopez-Morton and Uriel Iñiguez.

Commissioners absent: Edward Davila unexcused, Gabriel Portugal excused, Faviola Barbosa excused and Karla Padilla-Reyna excused.

Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria

Chair Gaeta discussed the purpose of this meeting: to determine a direction for the Commission for the next year and identify action items. Each CHA committee would discuss its work over the past month, and then the whole Commission would prioritize its areas of focus for the next year.

Emergent Issues

Racial Profiling: Commissioner Banfi mention that it would probably be best if the Commission took a different approach of how to work with law enforcement. Working together and setting up meeting with each other might be more productive.

Action Items:

1. Reviewing the State Patrol Report (Banfi)
2. Schedule meetings with State Patrol representatives.
3. Start collecting data on the issue (actual incidents reported to CHA of profiling)

Commissioner Tamez suggested that the Commission should work together with the media. He also said that by working together we can have the media help us with the data collection.

Health Care: Chair Gaeta spoke about budget cuts and funding of health care for Hispanics.

Economic Development: Vice-Chair Lopez-Morton said access is very important to economic development. Commissioner Banfi suggested that if we don't take action on this issue right now as a Commission, we will fall behind.

Michelle Danley asked Antonio if the Commission had any type of relationship with CTED.

The Emergent Issues committee wants to get a couple more commissioners to help on this issue.

Commissioner Tamez said that maybe if the Commission could get a grant or seek funding we could help with small business development.

Education Committee

Commissioner Avalos listed the three topics of discussion discussed at the last conference call: The Minority Teacher Act, the funding change to Migrant Education, and the Hispanic Youth Plan.

Minority Teacher Act: The State of Oregon has an act in effect that targets recruitment and hiring of minority teachers. The Education Committee tasked Director Ginatta with researching whether such an Act would be legal in WA. The AG responded informally that such an act would not be legal in WA due to the restrictions of I-200.

Migrant Ed funding changes: The discussion at the last study session was that OSPI may be considering taking bilingual education funds from Migrant Education and blending them with Title 1 funds. This shift of funds could hurt bilingual education programs. Director Ginatta has called Migrant Ed Director Gomez, but has not heard a reply yet. We were able to discover that such a blending of funds would require a legislative change.

Commissioner Tamez asked if we could get information from interested parties specifically documenting the concerns of the blending of funds. He also stated that it would be good to get clarification from Dr. Gomez about his view on the issue. Once clarified, then the Commission can evaluate what steps to take. Commissioner Avalos will provide some talking points and or information on the issue.

Hispanic Youth Plan: This plan became the METT document, and was introduced again at the METT meeting. Because of No Child Left Behind, the METT paper will need to be reexamined and reworked.

Director Ginatta mentioned some other issues of concern that may require further focus: the Class of 2008 certificate of mastery, conditional scholarships for bilingual teachers, and the DREAM Act.

Commissioner Avalos suggested that some parents have the right to waive their children from taking the WASL. She will try to get more info regarding this.

LEAP is taking on the issue of the DREAM Act for its focus for this year.

Break from 11:00 – 11:30am.

Chair Gaeta discussed the need to identify potential priorities and action items. The items under consideration were:

1. Racial profiling

- a. Review WSP report;
- b. Create working relationships with State Patrol and other policing agencies;
- c. Partner with police agencies on projects;
- d. Collect data on incidents of profiling; and
- e. Consider legislation to promote collection of data;

Director Ginatta warned that the budget situation was not going to allow for funding any projects not seen as crucial to functioning of government. Commissioner Tamez suggested that budget concerns should not prevent us from making critical recommendations.

2. Health Care

- a. Addressing cuts to funding of health care for Latino families;
- b. Participating in working group to protect immigrant rights in the state;
- c. Develop potential alternate models for funding health care priorities; and
- d. Labor and Industries issues:
 - 1) Doctor training;
 - 2) L&I responsiveness; and
 - 3) Education of injured workers about their rights.

3. Economic Development

- a. Establish a pilot project that could promote minority business development;
- b. Continuing to work on projects arising out of Minority Business Conference;
- c. Address access problems (access to govt. contracting, access to information);
- d. Voter registration drives;
- e. Student leadership / mentoring; and
- f. Sponsoring a Leadership Development/Leadership Summit

4. Migrant Education Funds

- a. Have conversation with Dr. Gomez about the funding change; and
- b. Examine structure of local Migrant Ed programs.

6. Certificate of Mastery (2008)

- a. Determine under what conditions WASL testing can be waived.

Director Ginatta expressed the concern that waiver was unlikely because if it were possible, why wouldn't every parent waive to prevent child from failing? Commissioner Avalos will check into the possibilities of waiver.

7. Conditional scholarships for bilingual teachers.
8. Support for the Dream Act.
9. Immigration status issues:
 - a. examine legality of using state "identity theft" laws to prosecute and deport undocumented workers;
 - b. continue to follow internal investigation of Mattawa child care fraud investigation; and
 - c. assist the Juan Escalante family in case deportation case proceeds.
10. Support for Matricula Consular as acceptable identification.

Chair Gaeta called for a vote on top three items of concern. Vote results was as follows:

1. Racial Profiling / Biased Policing;
2. Economic Development ; and
3. Health Care.

Immigration items received the fourth highest number of votes.

Chair Gaeta suggested the identification of specific action items under each item of concern.

Action Items

1. Commissioners Banfi, Iñiguez and Lopez-Morton will review the Washington State Patrol report and will bring information back to the Moses Lake meeting in November.
2. All Commissioners will create working relationships with a police agency, be it Washington State Patrol, Sheriffs, or City Police Departments.
3. Commissioners will determine whether these police agencies are acting to address racial profiling, collect traffic stop data, provide resources to minority groups in their areas, and provide cultural competency training and staff development.
4. Chair Gaeta and Director Ginatta will collaborate on the Mattawa child care issue: Will work to inform DSHS about CHA's concern about the investigation; will follow the internal investigation; will work with DSHS' Licensing Department to effectively train and inform providers about the requirements for the program; will advise on the need for child care in these areas and look for alternatives for child care for seasonal farmworkers.
5. On Labor and Industries, Commissioner Tamez will prepare recommendations for L&I to provide trainings for doctors who serve farmworkers. Commissioner Tamez will also participate in L&I Advisory Group meetings and represent the Commission.
6. Maternity Case Management: Director Ginatta will investigate the rule change and determine what response is better (legislation, regulation change). CHA will partner with involved entities that oppose the MCM change. Director Ginatta will meet with MAA about the change.
7. Access to Medical Coverage for Latinos: CHA will collect data about the status of access to medical coverage for Latinos in Washington. CHA will write a report about the status of Health Care for Latinos. CHA will investigate alternatives for health care funding. Director Ginatta will participate in the immigrant protection workgroup.
8. Leadership Development/Summit: Will partner with other entities to host a Leadership Conference, tentatively scheduled for May 2004.
9. Minority business development group: Vice Chair Lopez-Morton & Director Ginatta will continue to participate in the work of this group.
10. Legislative Day: CHA will seek to join with another group running a legislative day with similar issues and co-sponsor such an event.

Other Issues

The process of identifying priorities needs more time, and a suggestion was made for a whole day facilitated retreat in the future.

Commissioner Tamez suggested that the upcoming CHA meeting in Benton City should be moved to a more central and convenient location for the community. Director Ginatta discussed the timing necessary to make a meeting change, and suggested that Commissioner Tamez discuss the matter with Commissioners Davila

and Portugal to see if a change would be a good idea to promote community participation.

Commissioners recommended that we officially describe our commissioner expectations to Diane Prigge at Boards and Commissions to facilitate her recruitment.

Meeting adjourned 1:28pm.